REMARKS

Claims 8, 10, 12, 13, 15-17, 19-22 and 24-27 are presently in the application. Claim 1-7, 9, 11, 14, 18 and 23 have been canceled. Claims 12, 13, 16, 17, 20-22 and 24-27 have been withdrawn from further consideration as being drawn to a nonelected species.

Paragraph 14 has been amended to more accurately describe the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 3.

Claim 8 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 9 and 11.

In addition, claim 8 has been amended to define the language "valve seat" as the housing part on which the valve member rests when the valve is closed. This is the conventional meaning of the language "valve seat" and corresponds to the meaning used in the specification. Also, the term "connection," referring to the conduit or bore 32, has been replaced throughout the claims with the term "bore."

Claims 8-11, 14 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Talaski (US 2005/0016599). Reconsideration of the rejection is requested.

Claim 8 is directed to a valve 34 for a high-pressure pump, the valve having

a valve member 35 which cooperates with

a valve seat 45 formed in a housing part on which seat the valve member 35 rests when the valve is closed in order to close a bore 32 through the housing part,

the valve seat 45 having an at least approximately conical seat face which is located at a transition of the bore from a portion 32a of small diameter to a portion 32b of large diameter,

the seat face 45 forming an acute angle with the longitudinal axis 33 of the bore, the improvement wherein

the seat face, on its side oriented toward the portion of large diameter, is adjoined by at least one face 54 which forms a larger acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore than the seat face,

wherein the seat face, on its side oriented toward the portion of small diameter, is adjoined by at least one face 52 which forms a smaller acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore than the seat face,

wherein the face 54, adjoining the seat face toward the portion of the bore having the large diameter, is adjoined by at least one further face 55 which forms a larger acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore than the face 54 which adjoins the seat face toward the portion of the bore having the large diameter, and

wherein the face 52 adjoining the seat face toward the portion of the bore having the small diameter is adjoined by at least one further face 53 which forms a smaller acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore than the face which adjoins the seat face toward the portion of the bore having the small diameter.

In other words, as shown in the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 5, the seat face 45 is adjoined on both sides by conical faces 52, 54, which, in turn, are each adjoined by at least one further conical face 53 and 55.

The examiner describes Talaski as teaching a valve having a seat "A" (see, Office action, page 4) which is adjoined, on its side oriented toward the portion of large diameter, by at least one face "B" which is more markedly inclined toward the longitudinal axis of the connection than the seat face and which is adjoined, on its side oriented toward the portion of small

diameter, by at least one face "C" which is less markedly inclined toward the longitudinal axis of the connection than the seat face.

In applicants' claim 8, the "valve seat" is defined as that portion of the valve housing on which the valve member rests when the valve is closed. The seat "A" pointed to by the examiner is not the portion of the valve housing on which the valve member rests when the valve is closed.

The Examiner has selected Fig. 8 in Talaski and quite arbitrarily defined faces in this Fig. 8. The face marked A cannot be the seat face, since the ball 16 has a markedly smaller diameter than the face marked A and, therefore, cannot come to rest on the face marked A. In Talaski, the valve seat is formed at the edge of the transition from the left-hand bore having the small diameter to the widening bore, as is marked in the enclosed copy of Fig. 8 (see attached Exhibit A). In Talaski, there is thus no suitable seat face, and no faces adjoining it on both sides with a lesser or greater inclination to the longitudinal axis of the bore as defined by applicants' claim 8.

Further, the portion or face "B" of Talaski is less, not more, markedly inclined toward the longitudinal axis of the bore than the face "A" (that is, the face "B" forms an acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore that is smaller than the acute angle formed by the face "A"with the longitudinal axis of the bore) and that the portion or face "C" is more, not less, markedly inclined toward the longitudinal axis of the bore than the face "A" (that is, the face "C" forms an acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore that is larger than the acute angle formed by the face "A"with the longitudinal axis of the bore).

To support a rejection of a claim under 35 U.S.C. 102, it must be shown that each element of the claim is found, either expressly described or under principles of inherency, in a

single prior art reference. See Kalman v. Kimberly-Clark Corp., 713 F.2d 760, 772, 218 USPQ 781, 789 (Fed. Cir. 1983), cert. denied, 465 U.S. 1026 (1984).

Talaski does not teach or describe each and every element of claim 8 and, therefore, does not anticipate claim 8 or any of the claims dependent thereon.

Claims 8, 9, 14, 15, 18 and 19 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Trudeau et al (WO 99/64202).

Trudeau teaches a valve seat insert which is inserted into in engine to form part of a valve.

In rejecting claim 8, the definition made by the Examiner of the faces A through D is entirely arbitrary. In Trudeau, two faces 12 inclined to the longitudinal axis of the bore are provided, but it is not stated in the reference which of these two faces is the seat face. The face 16 in Trudeau is disposed perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the bore, and in the region of the inside diameter I.D, the bore is embodied cylindrically. Regardless of how the seat face is defined in Trudeau, the faces of differing inclinations in accordance with amended claim 8 are not present in Trudeau.

Assuming, as the examiner has done, that face A is the valve seat, the face C does not form an acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore. The seat face C is actually parallel to the longitudinal axis of the bore and the face C is not further adjoined by at least one further conical face as required by amended claim 8.

Also, the face 16, adjoining the face B does not form an acute angle with the longitudinal axis of the bore.

Claims 10 and 11 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Trudeau (WO 99/64202).

Claim 8 requires at least two faces on the side of the seat face oriented toward the portion of small diameter which form successively smaller acute angles with the longitudinal axis of the bore than the seat face. Such is an impossibility in Trudeau.

Claim 19 has been rejected under 35 UCS 103(a) as unpatentable over Talaski in view of Trudeau.

Trudeau does not solve the basic deficiencies in Talaski noted above. Therefore, even if it had been obvious to combine the teachings of these two references, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have arrived at the subject matter recited in claim 19

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any necessary fees in connection with this communication to Deposit Account Number 07-2100.

Entry of the amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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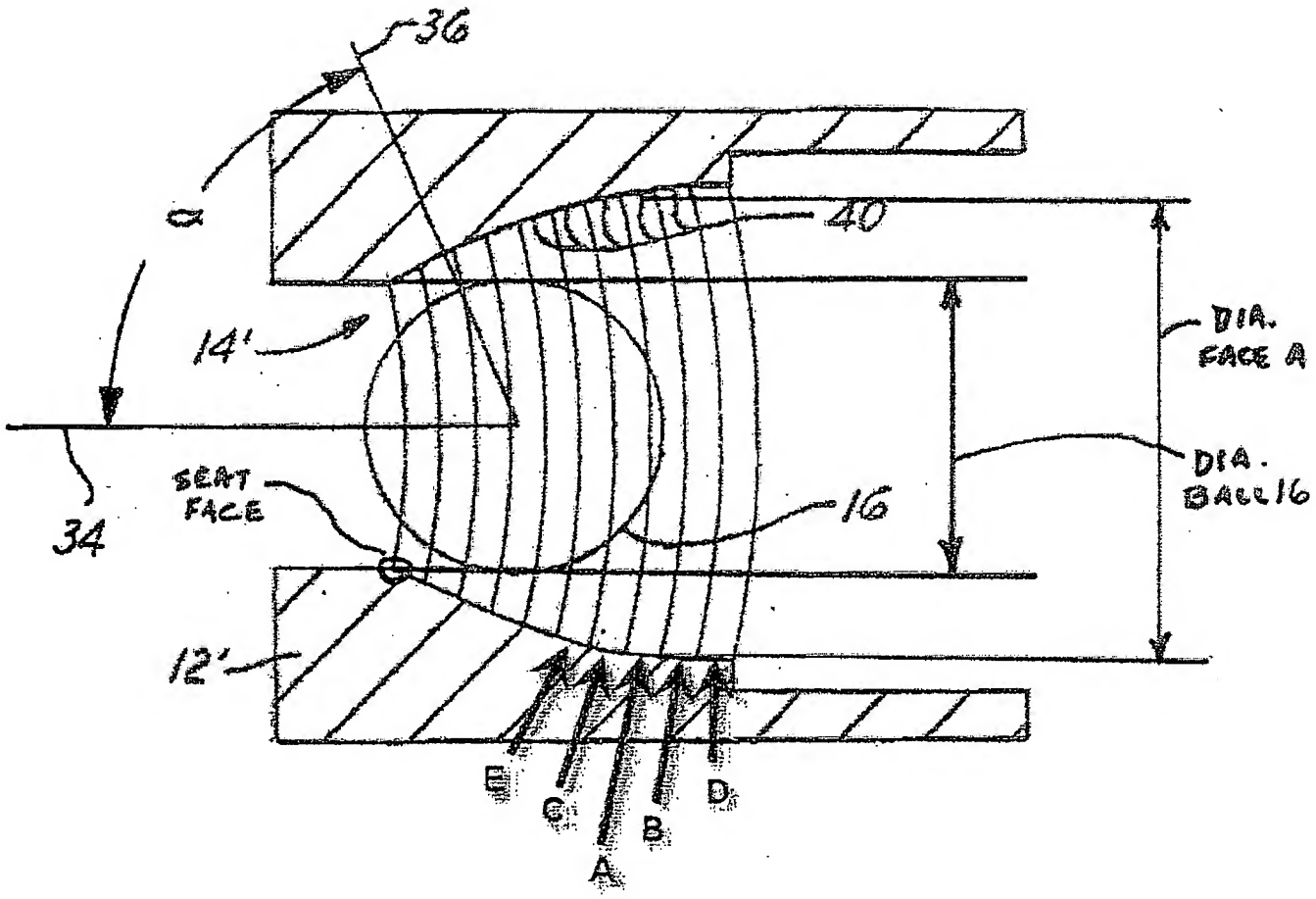
Enclosure: Exhibit A

Exhibit A



ANNOTATED FIG. 8